

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 DODE-00 /058 W

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R 060714Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3855

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA & MADRAS FROM
BOMBAY FEB 5, 1976 REPEATED FOR YOU

QUOTE

BOMBAY 0298

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TGEN, PFOR, US, IN

SUBJ: ALLEGATIONS

REF: BOMBAY 0289, NEW DELHI 1673

1. I WAS SEATED NEXT TO IAEC CHAIRMAN HOMI SETHNA LAST NIGHT AT BOMBAY PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE'S CEMINAR ON "DECADE OF SCIENTIFIC PONGRESS" (REPORTED SEPARATELY) AND IT WAS APPARENT FROM REMARKS TO ME AND IN HIS SPEECH (FEATURE ADDRESS OF GATHERING) THAT HE IS QUITE CONCERNED OVER PUBLICITY EMANATING FROM US SOURCES QUESTIONING SAFETY OF TARAPUR REACTORS. FOR EXAMPLE HE SAID "IN SPITE OF WHAT WE READ IN PRESS TARAPUR IS STILL STANDING AND PRODUCING BADLY NEEDED POWER." HE ALSO REFERRED TO CONFIDENCE SHOWN IN TARAPUR AS WELL AS OTHER INDIAN ATOMIC PROJECTS BY FOREIGN NUCLEAR POWERS THROUGH THEIR CONINUED COLLABORATION IN OPERATION OF THESE PROJECTS AND SUGGESTED THIS WOULD NOT BE FORTHOMCING IF THERE WERE REAL DOUBTS ABOUT TARAPUR.

2. ALTHOUGH SETHNA DID NOT SAY SO DIRECTLY I CONCLUDE THAT WHAT
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HE HOPES FOR IS A FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT ON APPROPRIATE OCCASION

MAKING CLEAR THAT USG HAS NO REASON TO DOUBT BASIS SAFETY
PROGRAM AT TARAPUR. AS HE PUT IT, WHY WOULD WE CONTINUE
TO SUPPLY FUEL FOR A DOUBTFUL PLANT. IN THIS REGARD J.C.
SHAH HADNOTED EARLIER IN DAY THAT US HAS A FORMAL REQUIREMENT
(APPARENTLY UNDER AID AGREEMENT INITIATING TARAPUR) TO ASSURE
OUTSELVES CONINUOUSLY ABOUT SAFETY PROGRAMS AT PLANT. SINCE
SETHNA CHOSE TO ADDRESS HIS DEMANDS TO CHAIRMAN ANDERS HE
PROBABLY SEES LATER IS IN BEST POSITION TO PUT PROBLEMS IN
PROPER PERSPECTIVE. HE PROBABLY HOPES ANDERS REPLY TO
SENATOR CRANSTON WILL (A) BE PROMPT (B) CLEARLY STATE BASIC
CONFIDENCE IN TARAPUR AND (C) BE GIVEN APPROPRIATE PUBLICITY
BY NRC, IF NOT BY SENATE COMMITTEE. SIGNED COURTNEY
UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: saccheem
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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